

JANUARY 23.

The President, Dr. LEIDY, in the chair.

Twenty-six persons present.

*Ovipositing of Argynnis cybele.*—Mr. H. SKINNER remarked that he had noticed a female of *Argynnis cybele* acting as though it were ovipositing, and seeing that it behaved in a peculiar manner, he was led to watch its proceedings carefully. Instead of attaching or cementing its eggs to the plant on which the young or larvæ are destined to feed, which is the usual habit of butterflies and moths, it hovered about a foot in height over a bed of violets, and at intervals would remain stationary and drop an egg from this distance to the food plant below. This seemed a remarkable procedure, inasmuch as it differed from the method which has been found to be so constant in this order. It remains to be seen whether this species always drops its eggs from a height, or only behaves in the peculiar manner occasionally while ovipositing. Also whether the other species of the genus *Argynnis* lay their eggs in a like manner. He thought it quite likely that *A. myrina* and *A. bellona* do so occasionally, as they differ from the other butterflies in the readiness with which they lay their eggs. He had known them to oviposit in chip boxes or other receptacles in which they were confined. He knew of no other species which behave thus. It had been stated that the species of the genus feed only on violets, which was probably not the case.

The following, received through the Botanical Section, was ordered to be printed:—